

Remarks:

This amendment and these remarks are responsive to the Office action dated December 15, 2003. Claims 1-21 are pending in the application. In the Office action, the Examiner objected to claims 3, 11-12, 14, 16, and 17, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Claim 2 was objected to for an informality. The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4-10, 13, 15, and 18-21 as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102 by Askren et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,386,681). Applicants traverse these rejections. Applicants contend that the rejected claims are not anticipated or obvious. Nevertheless, to reduce the number of issues under consideration in this response, to expedite the issuance of a patent, and/or to address formal matters, applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9, 11, 12, 16-18, 20 and 21. Applicants also have canceled claims 2, 8 and 13-15, without prejudice. Moreover, applicants have presented arguments showing that the cited reference neither teaches nor suggests the claimed invention. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims, and prompt issuance of a notice of allowance.

Claim Objection

The Examiner objected to claim 2 because of an informality resulting from a typographical error. In particular, the Examiner indicated that "the carriage bearing structure" should read "a carriage bearing structure." Applicants have canceled claim 2 and amended claim 3 to independent form with the elements of claim 2. Claim 3 now recites a carriage body "having bearing structure." This error thus is fully corrected in amended claim 3.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4-10, 13, 15, and 18-21 as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) by Askren et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,386,681). Applicants traverse these rejections. Askren et al. does not teach or suggest each of the elements of any of these claims. Nevertheless, to reduce the number of issues under consideration, to expedite the issuance of a patent, and/or to address formal matters, applicants have amended claims 1, 3-4, 7, 9, 11, 12, 16-18, 20, and 21, and have canceled claims 2, 8, and 13-15, without prejudice, as described in more detail below.

A. Claim 1

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a carriage for use in a printing device. The carriage includes, amongst other elements, a body and a printhead carrier anchored to the body and datumed relative to the body, both translationally and rotationally with respect to plural orthogonal references axes. Askren et al. does not teach or suggest a carriage with a printhead carrier datumed relative to the body, both translationally and rotationally with respect to plural orthogonal references axes. Therefore, for at least this reason, claim 1 should be allowed.

B. Claim 2

Independent claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Askren et al. However, the Examiner indicated in the Office action that claim 3, which depends directly from claim 2, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, applicants have canceled claim 2 and amended claim 3 to include all the features of claim 2. Claim 3 also has been amended to change “respecting” to the equivalent, but less awkward phrase, “with respect to.” This amendment creates

no change in meaning or scope in claim 3. Therefore, amended, independent claim 3 should be allowed. As amended, claims 4-7 depend from claim 3, and thus should be allowed for at least the same reasons as claim 3.

C. Claim 8

Independent claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Askren et al. However, the Examiner indicated in the Office action that claim 12, which depends directly from claim 8, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, applicants have canceled claim 8 and amended claim 12 to include all the features of claim 8. Therefore, claim 12, as amended, should be allowed. As amended, dependent claims 9-11 depend from claim 12, and thus should be allowed for at least the same reasons as claim 12.

D. Claim 15

Independent claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Askren et al. However, the Examiner indicated in the Office action that claim 16, which depends directly from claim 15, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, applicants have canceled claim 15 and amended claim 16 to include all the features of claim 15. Therefore, claim 16, as amended to independent form, should be allowed. As amended, dependent claims 17 and 18 depend from claim 16, and thus should be allowed for at least the same reasons as claim 16.

E. Claim 19

Independent claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Askren et al. Claim 19 is directed to a datuming apparatus in a printing device. The datuming apparatus includes, amongst other elements, a carriage body, a printhead carrier, and an ink-supply system. The ink-supply system is fluidly connected to the

printhead carrier and mounted on the carrier body. A portion of the carriage body is interposed the printhead carrier and the ink-supply system. Askren et al. does not teach or suggest this interposed arrangement of a portion of the carriage body. Therefore, for at least this reason, claim 19 should be allowed.

F. Claim 20

Independent claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Askren et al. However, claim 20 has been amended. Claim 20, as amended, claims a method of aligning a printhead relative to a printzone in a printing device. The method recites, in part, “orienting the carriage body datuming surfaces relative to the printhead carrier datuming surfaces whereby confronting contact between adjacent pairs of such datuming surfaces will be effective to produce translational and rotational datuming of the printhead carrier relative to the carriage body with respect to plural orthogonal reference axes.” Askren does not teach or suggest such orienting of datuming surfaces to produce translational and rotational datuming with respect to plural orthogonal references axes. Therefore, for at least this reason, claim 20 should be allowed.

F. Claim 21

Independent claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Askren et al. Applicants have amended claim 21 to correct several typographical errors, so the scope of claim 21 has not changed. Claim 21 claims a method of assembling a carriage for use in a printing device. The method recites, in part, “anchoring the printhead carrier to the ink-supply system with the carriage body intermediate the printhead carrier and the ink-supply system.” Askren does not teach or suggest a

carriage body intermediate a printhead carrier and an ink-supply system. Therefore, for at least this reason, claim 21 should be allowed.

Applicants believe that they have addressed all of the issues raised by the Examiner in the Office action, and that the application currently is in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner has any questions or comments, or if a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the application, the Examiner is encouraged to call applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

KOLISCH HARTWELL, P.C.



Walter W. Karnstein

Registration No. 35,565

Customer No. 23581

520 S.W. Yamhill Street, Suite 200

Portland, Oregon 97204

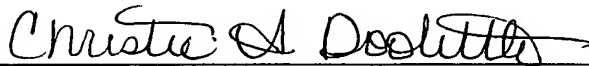
Telephone: (503) 224-6655

Facsimile: (503) 295-6679

Attorney for Applicants

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on March 9, 2004.



Christie A. Doolittle